

Green

MEMORANDUM

TO: See Distribution List

DATE: 7/10/63

FROM: Daniel Ellsberg

MEMO: M-4953

SUBJECT: SEMINAR: DR. WARD EDWARDS OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT, THURSDAY JULY 11, 1963, 3:00 PM,
ECONOMICS CONFERENCE ROOM

Dr. Ward Edwards of the Psychology Department, University of Michigan, is consulting at SDC this summer and will be at RAND at 3:00 Thursday afternoon, July 11, to give a talk on "Probabilistic Information Processing (PIP) in Command and Control." The meeting will be held in the Economics Conference Room.

Edwards is interested in applications of Bayesian statistical inference theory, both in experimental exploration of actual processes of inference and decisionmaking under uncertainty, and in the application of the Bayesian approach to the design of command and control systems. On Thursday he will discuss some relevant aspects of the Bayesian approach, some experiments he has conducted, and some possibilities for entering subjective probability judgments explicitly into information flows in command and control systems.

I believe the Bayesian approach shows great promise for providing a long-needed conceptual framework for the analysis of the actual workings of current command and control systems, whether or not Edwards' hopes of redesigning such systems to process explicit probability judgments are practical. The approach also clarifies many of the conceptual problems of intelligence forecasting and tactical and strategic warning.

I think Edwards' talk will be particularly stimulating to the members of this distribution list, and hope that you can attend Thursday. There are prospects for a joint SDC-RAND seminar exploring these subjects further throughout the summer if there is sufficient interest.

DE/ss

Daniel Ellsberg

Distribution:

P. Armer
H. Averch
P. Baran
E. Brunner
R. Bucy
J. Carne
M. Carpenter
L. Catlett
N. Dalkey
T. Glennan

R. Kao
R. Levien
D. McGarvey
R. McKean
M. Maron
A. Marshall
E. Neuberger
G. Northrop
V. Taylor

O. Helmer
F. Hoffman
W. Jones
C. Thomson
M. Weiner
R. Zeckhauser
T. Harris
A. Madansky
R. Van Horn